

Applicant : Christopher P. Geisert  
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In the Specification:

Please replace paragraph 0011 at page 2, with the following paragraph:

- Head support portion 10 is generally oval in geometry and includes a generally planar surface 11. However, head support 10 may take on various configurations and/or shapes without departing from the inventive concept. In the illustrated embodiment head support 10 and more appropriately planar surface 11 includes a concave surface 12 wherein the users head may be comfortably positioned therein to center and stabilize the occipital region. In the illustrated embodiment, planar surface 11 is generally horizontally disposed when upper body support device 2 is positioned as shown in Fig. 1. Further, planar surface 11 is generally fabricated to be of a height which is equal to cervical region 30. However, planar surface 11 may be fabricated at a height which is above or below cervical region 30 and further, may be fabricated at an angle, as the users specific requirements dictate. Disposed adjacent head support 10 is cervical region 30 of thoracic support portion 20. - -

Please replace paragraph 0012 at page 2, with the following paragraph:

- As best illustrated by Fig. 2, cervical region 30 comprises the area which is generally between head support portion 10 and spinal region 60. In the illustrated embodiment, cervical region 30 is disposed between a peripheral edge portion 13 of concave surface 12 and a first end 66 of spinal region 60. Cervical region 30 supports cervical lordosis while making a smooth transition for the cervicothoracic and cervicalthoracic junctions of the user's body. As discussed previously, cervical region 30 is generally co-planar with planar surface 11 of head support portion 10. However, cervical region 30 may include a bump, protrusion or other raised surface for increased neck support and/or head tilt. Disposed at opposite lateral ends 34 and 35 of cervical region 30 are blades 42 of shoulder regions 40. - -

Please replace paragraph 0013 at page 3, with the following paragraph:

- Shoulder regions 40 are disposed on opposite sides of spinal region 60. In the illustrated embodiment, shoulder regions 40 include blades 42 which are generally co-planar

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with cervical region 30 and planar surface 11. ~~The shoulder~~ Shoulder regions 40 may also include ramped or otherwise non-pointed ends 44 and generally tapered front edge's edges 46 (Fig. 3). Tapered edges 46 are also concave to aid in the support and positioning of the users shoulders. ~~Shoulder blades~~ Blades 42 and tapered front edge 46 act to position and retain the user's shoulders thereby ensuring optimal positioning of the patient's shoulder blades with respect to upper body support device 2 and more specifically, spinal region 60. - -

Please replace paragraph 0014 at page 3, with the following paragraph:

- Disposed between shoulder regions 40 is spinal region 60 which includes a convex arcuately or arched shaped region 62. Spinal region 60 supports cervical lordosis and gently extends the spinal region thereby assisting with normal erect posture. Additionally, ~~areh~~ convex arcuately shaped region 62 also aides in positioning the shoulders thereby encouraging the stretching of the anterior muscles and tissues and the shortening of the posterior muscles and tissues. In this manner, proper posture is encouraged while simultaneously preventing, treating and/or alleviating back problems. - -

Please replace paragraph 0015 at page 3, with the following paragraph:

- As best illustrated in Fig. 2, convex arcuately shaped region 62 generally increases in size from second end 67, positioned towards lumbar region 50, and first end 66. That is to say, the convex arcuately shaped region 62 increases in height as well as in width as ~~portion~~ arcuately shaped region 62 tends from second end 67 toward first end 66. However, convex ~~portion~~ arcuately shaped region 62 may take on the form of various other geometries. In the illustrated embodiment, convex ~~portion~~ arcuately shaped region 62 increases in size, as discussed above, from second end 67 to an intermediate point or transition 68. At transition 68, convex arcuately shaped region 62 remains relatively constant in width (as convex arcuately shaped region 62 tends towards first end 66), yet gradually increases in height. In addition to convex arcuately shaped region 62 being tapered, underlying thoracic support portion 20 may also be tapered, as for example from lumbar region 50 towards first end 66 of convex arcuately shaped region 62 thereby adding to the inclination of upper body support

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device 2 (see Fig. 1). Such a slope creates a transition from the lumbar region and supports the body without interfering with lordosis. In the preferred embodiment, both thoracic support portion 20 and convex arcuately shaped region 62 are tapered such that the tapers increase from lumbar region 50 to first end 66.- -

Please replace paragraph 0016 at page 4, with the following paragraph:

- In another embodiment, upper body support device 2 includes thoracic support portion 20 but does not include head support portion 10. With this embodiment, a user is free to use an alternative head support, such as for example, a pillow. Therefore, the user will not be restricted to a particular head support but instead may use the support most beneficial to the user's requirements. Alternately, the head may be left unsupported for situations where this is advisable. Further, a separate head support 49 may be supplied with varying heights so that the user can be optimally accommodated. The thoracic support portion 20 of this embodiment is generally as described with regard to the previous embodiment.- -

Please replace paragraph 0018 at page 4, with the following paragraph:

- As best illustrated by Fig. 1, support device 2 is used by positioning generally planar second side 24 of upper body support device 2 onto a generally planar surface. Such a planar surface may be, for example, a bed, floor or other surface whereon the support device is to be used. Of course, support device 2 is not limited to horizontal surfaces and any generally planar surface can be used and may include chairs, couches or other seating devices. Therefore, support device 2 may be used in either a lying down or seated position. Upper support device 2 may be used to support a user when in a lying down or prostrate position.- -

Please replace paragraph 0019 at page 5, with the following paragraph:

- Once body support device 2 is positioned on such a surface, the user will then position themselves such that the user's head is supported within concave surface 12 of head support portion 10 while the user's neck is supported by cervical region 30. This positioning

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ensures that the user's spinal region is positioned over spinal region 60 and more particularly over convex arcuately shaped region 62 while the users shoulders are positioned below blades 42 and residing on or just below tapered ~~front edge~~ edges 46. This positioning optimally places the user's head, neck, shoulder and spinal regions such that the user's head is supported in a generally planar position while the user's neck is comfortably supported by cervical region 30. Further, the convexly arcuately shaped region 62 ensures that the user's spinal region is comfortably supported while tending to elevate the user's spinal cord such that the user's shoulders are biased downwardly by the aforementioned spinal region elevation. This positions the user's thoracic region in a manner which provides for the front chest area of the user to be extended outwardly due to the weight of the user's body, while the user's shoulder areas are biased rearwardly of the front chest area. The resultant positioning of the users thoracic area when using upper body support device 2 can be best described as positioning the user in a "chest out, shoulders back" position thereby providing proper posture and preventing and/or treating various back problems. By utilizing support device 2, the user is correctly positioned, for example while sleeping, while the support device acts to improve the users posture, stretches the users chest muscles and tissue and shortens over-elongated back muscles and tissue caused by poor posture. In addition, support device 2 helps to alleviate snoring by increasing airflow. Further, these benefits are accomplished through the use of a very comfortable support device 2. - -